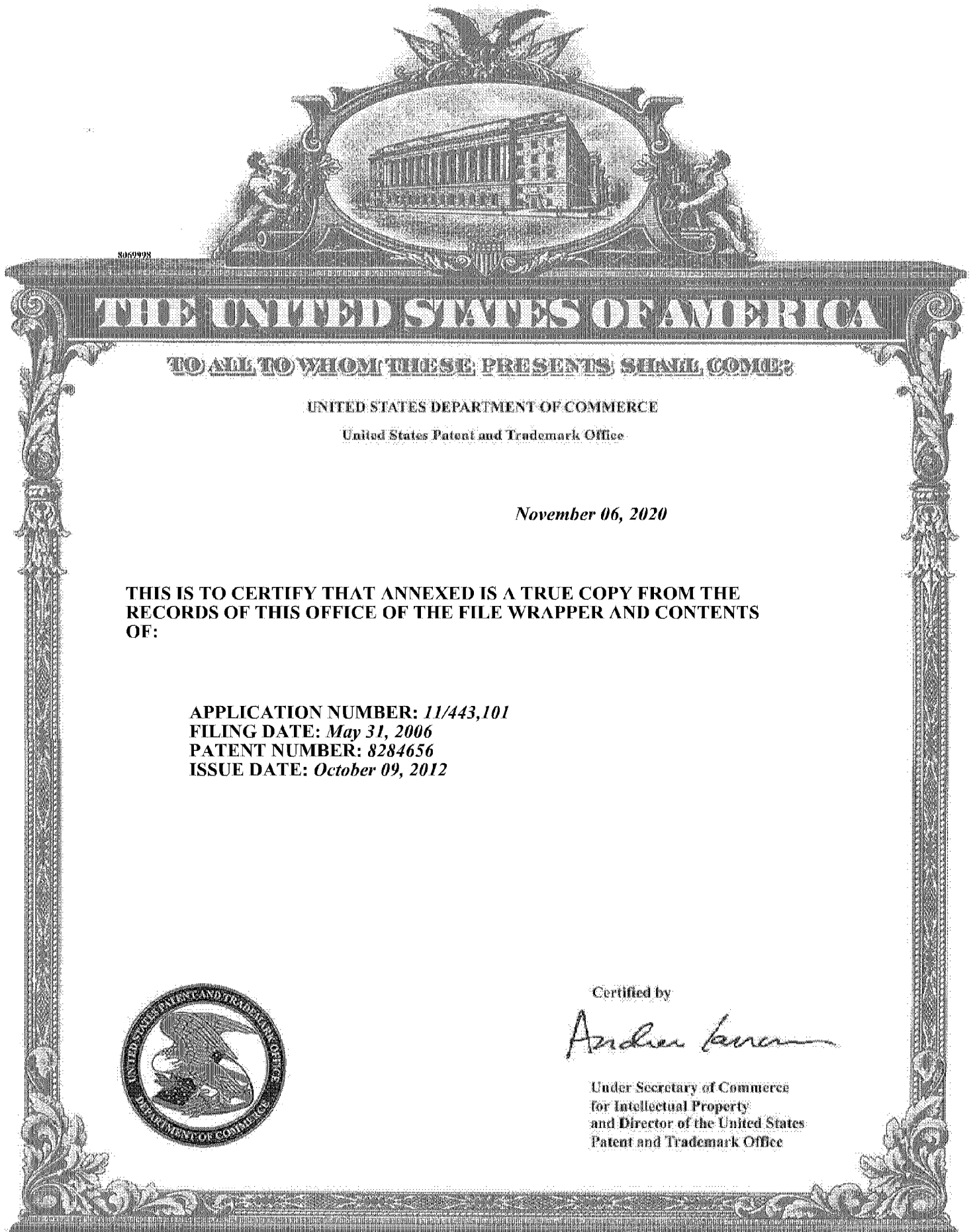


# **EXHIBIT 7**



PTO/SB/05 (05-05)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0032

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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# UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No.

ALC 3242.01

First Inventor

Kajal Saha, et al.

Title

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR RESILIENT VPLS OVER MULTI-NODAL APS PROTECTED PROVIDER EDGE NODES

Express Mail Label No.

## APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

1. ☒ **Fee Transmittal Form** (e.g., PTO/SB/17)  
(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. ☐ **Applicant claims small entity status.**  
See 37 CFR 1.27.
3. ☒ **Specification** [Total Pages 19]  
Both the claims and abstract must start on a new page  
(For information on the preferred arrangement, see MPEP 608.01(a))
4. ☒ **Drawing(s)** (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets 3]
5. **Oath or Declaration** [Total Sheets 6]  
a. ☒ Newly executed (original or copy)  
b. ☐ A copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d))  
(for continuation/divisional with Box 18 completed)  
i. ☐ **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**  
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s)  
name in the prior application, see 37 CFR  
1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
6. ☒ **Application Data Sheet.** See 37 CFR 1.76
7. ☐ **CD-ROM or CD-R** in duplicate, large table or  
Computer Program (Appendix)  
☐ Landscape Table on CD
8. **Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission**  
(if applicable, items a. - c. are required)  
a. **Computer Readable Form (CRF)**  
i. ☐ Computer Readable Form (CRF)  
ii. ☐ Transfer Request (37 CFR 1.821(e))  
b. **Specification Sequence Listing on:**  
i. ☐ CD-ROM or CD-R (2 copies); or  
ii. ☐ Paper  
c. ☐ Statements verifying identity of above copies

ADDRESS TO:

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

## ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

9. ☒ **Assignment Papers** (cover sheet & document(s))  
Name of Assignee Alcatel
10. ☐ **37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement** (when there is an assignee) ☒ **Power of Attorney**
11. ☐ **English Translation Document** (if applicable)
12. ☐ **Information Disclosure Statement** (PTO/SB/08 or PTO-1449)  
☐ Copies of foreign patent documents,  
publications, & other information
13. ☐ **Preliminary Amendment**
14. ☒ **Return Receipt Postcard** (MPEP 503)  
(Should be specifically itemized)
15. ☐ **Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)**  
(if foreign priority is claimed)
16. ☐ **Nonpublication Request** under 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)(B)(i).  
Applicant must attach form PTO/SB/35 or equivalent.
17. ☐ **Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

18. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in the first sentence of the specification following the title, or in an Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76:

☐ Continuation☐ Divisional☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP)

of prior application No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Prior application information: Examiner \_\_\_\_\_

Art Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

## 19. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

☒ The address associated with Customer Number: 30868 OR ☐ Correspondence address below

Name

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Country

Telephone

Email Address

Signature

Terry W. Kramer

Date

May 31, 2006

Name

(Print/Type)

Terry W. Kramer

Registration No./

(Attorney/Agent)

41,541

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.53(b). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

150272

**WE CLAIM:**

1. A system of redundant pair automatic protection switching at the edge of a VPLS network comprising:

a redundant pair of provider edge nodes comprising:

a first provider edge node adapted to function as a working node of the redundant pair; and

a second provider edge node adapted to function as a protection node of the redundant pair;

wherein the first provider edge node is adapted to upon a switchover in the redundant pair:

send an explicit request to a third provider edge node which possesses a MAC address entry that the third provider edge node previously learned from the first provider edge node to flush said MAC address entry.

2. A system of redundant pair automatic protection switching at the edge of a VPLS network according to claim 1 wherein the redundant pair of provider edge nodes are configured to be an APS 1+1 redundant pair.

3. A system of redundant pair automatic protection switching at the edge of a VPLS network according to claim 1 further comprising:

an access switch linked to the first provider edge node over a working link and linked to the second provider edge node over a protection link;

wherein the access switch forms a working circuit with the working link and the first provider edge node, and wherein the access switch forms a protection circuit with the protection link and the second provider edge node.

Application No: 11/443,101

Attorney's Docket No: ALC 3242.01

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of	:	Kajal Saha
	:	
For	:	SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR RESILIENT VPLS OVER MULT- NODAL APS PROTECTED PROVIDER EDGE ACCESS
	:	
Serial No.:	:	11/443,101
	:	
Filed	:	May 31, 2006
	:	
Art Unit	:	2416
	:	
Examiner	:	Bokhari, Syed M.
	:	
Att. Docket	:	ALC 3242.01
	:	
Confirmation No.	:	3476

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R § 1.111**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir: In response to the Office Action mailed November 26, 2008, Applicant respectfully submits the following amendments for form, and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections, for the reasons Applicant respectfully submits at the Remarks section of this paper.

**Listing of the claims** begins at page **2** of this paper.

**Remarks** begin at page **7** of this paper.

Application No: 11/443,101

Attorney's Docket No: ALC 3242.01

**Listing of the Claims:**

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1     1. (Original) A system of redundant pair automatic protection switching at the  
2     edge of a VPLS network comprising:

3             a redundant pair of provider edge nodes comprising:

4             a first provider edge node adapted to function as a working node of the  
5     redundant pair; and

6             a second provider edge node adapted to function as a protection node of  
7     the redundant pair;

8             wherein the first provider edge node is adapted to upon a switchover in  
9     the redundant pair:

10            send an explicit request to a third provider edge node which

11     possesses a MAC address entry that the third provider edge node

12     previously learned from the first provider edge node to flush said MAC

13     address entry.

1     2. ( Original) A system of redundant pair automatic protection switching at  
2     the edge of a VPLS network according to claim 1 wherein the redundant

Application No: 11/443,101

Attorney's Docket No: ALC 3242.01

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner, for at least the reasons Applicant submits above, to reconsider and withdraw this rejection of claim 5.

### CONCLUSION

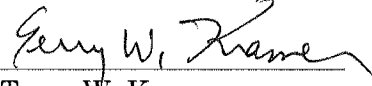
Applicant submits that all pending claims of this application stand in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, though, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

In the event the fees submitted prove insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Date: December 26, 2008

KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.  
1725 Duke Street, Suite 240  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Phone: 703-519-9801  
Fax: 703-519-9802

Respectfully submitted,  
**KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.**

  
Terry W. Kramer  
Registration No.: 41,541

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of	:	Kajal Saha
	:	
For	:	SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR RESILIENT VPLS OVER MULT- NODAL APS PROTECTED PROVIDER EDGE ACCESS
	:	
Serial No.:	:	11/443,101
	:	
Filed	:	May 31, 2006
	:	
Art Unit	:	2416
	:	
Examiner	:	Bokhari, Syed M.
	:	
Att. Docket	:	ALC 3242.01
	:	
Confirmation No.	:	3476

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R § 1.111**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir: In response to the Office Action mailed April 1, 2009, Applicant respectfully submits the following amendments for form, and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Office Action rejections for the reasons Applicant respectfully submits at the Remarks section of this paper.

**Listing of the claims** begins at page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin at page 8 of this paper.



Application No: 11/443,101

Attorney's Docket No: ALC 3242.01

**Listing of the Claims:**

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A system of redundant pair automatic protection
- 2 switching at the edge of a Virtual Private LAN System (VPLS) network
- 3 comprising:
- 4 a redundant pair of provider edge nodes comprising:
- 5 a first provider edge node adapted to function as a working node
- 6 of the redundant pair, [[;]] and
- 7 a second provider edge node adapted to function as a protection
- 8 node of the redundant pair; and
- 9 a third provider edge node possessing a media access control (MAC)
- 10 address entry for the first provider edge node, previously learned by the third
- 11 provider edge node,
- 12 wherein the first provider edge node, when functioning as the working
- 13 node, communicates with the third provider edge node, and
- 14 wherein the first provider edge node is adapted to upon a switchover in
- 15 the redundant pair:
- 16 send an explicit request to the [[a]] third provider edge node ~~which~~
- 17 ~~possesses a MAC address entry that the third provider edge node~~

Application No: 11/443,101

Attorney's Docket No: ALC 3242.01

18 ~~previously learned from the first provider edge node~~ to flush said MAC  
19 address entry.

1 2. ( Currently Amended) A system of redundant pair automatic protection  
2 switching at the edge of a VPLS network according to claim 1 wherein the  
3 redundant pair of provider edge nodes are configured to be an Automatic  
4 Protection Switching (APS) 1+1 redundant pair.

1 3. (Original) A system of redundant pair automatic protection switching at the  
2 edge of a VPLS network according to claim 1 further comprising:  
3 an access switch linked to the first provider edge node over a working  
4 link and linked to the second provider edge node over a protection link;  
5 wherein the access switch forms a working circuit with the working  
6 link and the first provider edge node, and wherein the access switch forms  
7 a protection circuit with the protection link and the second provider edge  
8 node.

1 4. (Original) A system of redundant pair automatic protection switching at the  
2 edge of a VPLS network according to claim 1 further comprising:  
3 a first tunnel linking the first provider edge node with the third  
4 provider edge node;

Application No: 11/443,101

Attorney's Docket No: ALC 3242.01

Applicant further submits that the claims as amended define all acronyms and abbreviations, and therefore overcome the objections to claims 1, 2 and stated at page 2 of the Office Action.

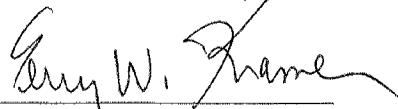
Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner, for at least the reasons that Applicant submits above, to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1 and 6, and of all their dependent claims 2-5 and 7-8.

#### CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that all pending claims of this application stand in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, though, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

In the event the fees submitted prove insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,  
**KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.**



Terry W. Kramer  
Registration No.: 41,541

Date: April 20, 2009

KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.  
1725 Duke Street, Suite 240  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Phone: 703-519-9801  
Fax: 703-519-9802

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	:	Kajal Saha, et al.
	:	
For	:	SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
	:	RESILIENT VPLS OVER
	:	MULTI-NODAL APS PROTECTED
	:	PROVIDER EDGE ACCESS
	:	
Serial No.:	:	11/443,101
	:	
Filed	:	May 31, 2006
	:	
Art Unit	:	2473
	:	
Examiner	:	Bokhari, Syed M.
	:	
Att. Docket	:	ALC 3242.01
	:	
Confirmation No.	:	3476

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R § 1.111**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed January 22, 2010, Applicant respectfully submits the following amendments for form, and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Office Action rejections for the reasons Applicant respectfully submits at the Remarks section of this paper.

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS** begin on page 8 of this paper.

Application No: 11/443,101  
Attorney Docket No: ALC 3242.01

### CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims, with an indication of the status of each claim, will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

#### Listing of Claims

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) A system of redundant pair automatic protection  
2 switching at the edge of a Virtual Private LAN System (VPLS) network  
3 comprising:
  - 4 a redundant pair of provider edge nodes comprising:
    - 5 a first provider edge node ~~adapted to function as~~ that is a working  
6 node of the redundant pair before a switchover and a protection node of  
7 the redundant pair after the switchover, and
    - 8 a second provider edge node ~~adapted to function as a~~ that is the  
9 protection node of the redundant pair before the switchover and the  
10 working node of the redundant pair after the switchover; and
  - 11 a third provider edge node possessing a media access control (MAC)  
12 address entry for the first provider edge node, previously learned by the third  
13 provider edge node,
    - 14 wherein the first provider edge node, when functioning as the working  
15 node, communicates with the third provider edge node, and

Application No: 11/443,101  
 Attorney Docket No: ALC 3242.01

16        wherein the first provider edge node<sub>1</sub> ~~is adapted to upon a~~ after the  
 17        switchover in the redundant pair<sub>1</sub> ~~send~~ sends an explicit request to the third  
 18        provider edge node to flush said MAC address entry.

1        2. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system of redundant pair automatic~~  
 2        ~~protection switching at the edge of a VPLS network according to claim 1,~~  
 3        wherein the redundant pair of provider edge nodes ~~are configured to be~~ is  
 4        an Automatic Protection Switching (APS) 1+1 redundant pair.

1        3. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system of redundant pair automatic protection~~  
 2        ~~switching at the edge of a VPLS network according to claim 1,~~ further  
 3        comprising:

4        an access switch linked to the first provider edge node over a working  
 5        link and linked to the second provider edge node over a protection link;  
 6        wherein the access switch forms a working circuit with the working link and  
 7        the first provider edge node, and wherein the access switch forms a protection  
 8        circuit with the protection link and the second provider edge node.

1        4. (Currently Amended) A ~~The system of redundant pair automatic protection~~  
 2        ~~switching at the edge of a VPLS network according to claim 1,~~ further  
 3        comprising:

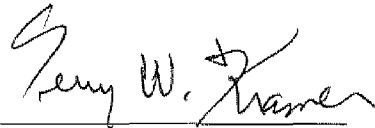
Application No: 11/443,101  
Attorney Docket No: ALC 3242.01

**CONCLUSION**

Applicant submits that all pending claims of this application stand in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, though, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

In the event the fees submitted prove insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,  
**KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry W. Kramer", is written over a horizontal line.

Terry W. Kramer  
Registration No.: 41,541

Date: March 23, 2010

KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.  
1725 Duke Street, Suite 240  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Phone: 703-519-9801  
Fax: 703-519-9802

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

In re Application of	:	Kajal Saha
	:	
For	:	SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
	:	RESILIENT VPLS OVER MULTI-
	:	NODAL APS PROTECTED
	:	PROVIDER EDGE ACCESS
	:	
Serial No.	:	11/443,101
	:	
Filed	:	May 31, 2006
	:	
Art Unit	:	2473
	:	
Examiner	:	Syed M. Bokhari
	:	
Att. Docket	:	ALC 3242.01
	:	
Confirmation No.	:	3476

**APPEAL BRIEF**

Mail Stop Appeal Brief Patents  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This Appeal Brief is submitted in support of the Notice of Appeal filed herewith.

**I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST**

The party in interest is Alcatel, by way of an Assignment recorded at Reel  
017945, frame 0244.



Application No: 11/443,101  
Attorney Docket No: ALC 3242.01

**CONCLUSION**

For at least the reasons discussed above, Appellant respectfully submits that the rejections are in error and that claims 1-11 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Appellant respectfully requests that this Honorable Board reverse the rejections of claims 1-11.

Respectfully submitted,  
**KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.**

Date: April 18, 2011

KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.  
1725 Duke Street, Suite 240  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Tel. (703) 519-9801  
Fax. (703) 519-9802

---

Terry W. Kramer  
Reg. No. 41,541

Application No: 11/443,101  
Attorney Docket No: ALC 3242.01

## VIII. CLAIMS APPENDIX

### CLAIMS INVOLVED IN THE APPEAL:

1. (Rejected) A system of redundant pair automatic protection switching at the edge of a Virtual Private LAN System (VPLS) network comprising:

a redundant pair of provider edge nodes comprising:

a first provider edge node that is a working node of the redundant pair before a switchover and a protection node of the redundant pair after the switchover, and

a second provider edge node that is the protection node of the redundant pair before the switchover and the working node of the redundant pair after the switchover; and

a third provider edge node possessing a media access control (MAC) address entry for the first provider edge node, previously learned by the third provider edge node, wherein the first provider edge node, when functioning as the working node, communicates with the third provider edge node, and wherein the first provider edge node, after the switchover in the redundant pair, sends an explicit request to the third provider edge node to flush said MAC address entry.

2. (Rejected) The system of claim 1, wherein the redundant pair of provider edge nodes is an Automatic Protection Switching (APS) 1+1 redundant pair.

3. (Rejected) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

In re Application of	:	Kajal Saha
	:	
For	:	SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
	:	RESILIENT VPLS OVER MULTI-
	:	NODAL APS PROTECTED
	:	PROVIDER EDGE ACCESS
	:	
Serial No.	:	11/443,101
	:	
Filed	:	May 31, 2006
	:	
Art Unit	:	2473
	:	
Examiner	:	Syed M. Bokhari
	:	
Att. Docket	:	AIC 3242.01
	:	
Confirmation No.	:	3476

**APPEAL BRIEF**

Mail Stop Appeal Brief Patents  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This Appeal Brief is submitted in support of the Notice of Appeal filed herewith.

**I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST**

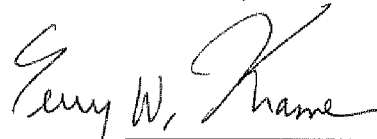
The party in interest is Alcatel, by way of an Assignment recorded at Reel 017945, frame 0244.

Application No: 11/443,101  
Attorney Docket No: ALC 3242.01

**CONCLUSION**

For at least the reasons discussed above, Appellant respectfully submits that the rejections are in error and that claims 1-11 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Appellant respectfully requests that this Honorable Board reverse the rejections of claims 1-11.

Respectfully submitted,  
**KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry W. Kramer", is written over a horizontal line.

Terry W. Kramer  
Reg. No. 41,541

Date: April 26, 2011

KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.  
1725 Duke Street, Suite 240  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Tel. (703) 519-9801  
Fax. (703) 519-9802

Application No: 11/443,101  
Attorney Docket No: ALC 3242.01

## VIII. CLAIMS APPENDIX

### CLAIMS INVOLVED IN THE APPEAL:

1. (Rejected) A system of redundant pair automatic protection switching at the edge of a Virtual Private LAN System (VPLS) network comprising:

a redundant pair of provider edge nodes comprising:

a first provider edge node that is a working node of the redundant pair before a switchover and a protection node of the redundant pair after the switchover, and

a second provider edge node that is the protection node of the redundant pair before the switchover and the working node of the redundant pair after the switchover; and

a third provider edge node possessing a media access control (MAC) address entry for the first provider edge node, previously learned by the third provider edge node, wherein the first provider edge node, when functioning as the working node, communicates with the third provider edge node, and wherein the first provider edge node, after the switchover in the redundant pair, sends an explicit request to the third provider edge node to flush said MAC address entry.

2. (Rejected) The system of claim 1, wherein the redundant pair of provider edge nodes is an Automatic Protection Switching (APS) 1+1 redundant pair.

3. (Rejected) The system of claim 1, further comprising:

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of	:	Kajal Saha, et al.
	:	
For	:	SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
	:	RESILIENT VPLS OVER
	:	MULTI-NODAL APS PROTECTED
	:	PROVIDER EDGE ACCESS
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	:	
Filed	:	May 31, 2006
	:	
Art Unit	:	2473
	:	
Examiner	:	Bokhari, Syed M.
	:	
Att. Docket	:	ALC 3242.01
	:	
Confirmation No.	:	3476

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R § 1.111**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed July 22, 2011, Applicant respectfully submits the following amendments for form, and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Office Action rejections for the reasons Applicant respectfully submits in the Remarks section of this paper.

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS** begin on page 8 of this paper.

Application No: 11/443,101  
Attorney Docket No: ALC 3242.01

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

This listing of claims, with an indication of the status of each claim, will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A system of redundant pair automatic protection switching at the edge of a Virtual Private LAN System (VPLS) network comprising a redundant pair of provider edge nodes comprising:

a first provider edge node that is a working node of the redundant pair before a switchover and a protection node of the redundant pair after the switchover, and

a second provider edge node that is the protection node of the redundant pair before the switchover and the working node of the redundant pair after the switchover; and

a third provider edge node possessing a media access control (MAC) address entry for the first provider edge node, previously learned by the third provider edge node, wherein the first provider edge node, when functioning as the working node, communicates with the third provider edge node, and ~~wherein the first provider edge node~~, after the switchover in the redundant pair, sends an explicit request to the third provider edge node to flush said MAC address entry for the first provider edge node.

Application No: 11/443,101  
Attorney Docket No: ALC 3242.01

**CONCLUSION**

Applicant submits that all pending claims of this application stand in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, though, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues. In the event the fees submitted prove insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,  
**KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.**

*/Eric J. Nuss/*

Date: August 17, 2011

\_\_\_\_\_  
Eric J. Nuss  
Registration No.: 40,106

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	:	Kajal Saha, et al.
	:	
For	:	SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
	:	RESILIENT VPLS OVER
	:	MULTI-NODAL APS PROTECTED
	:	PROVIDER EDGE ACCESS
	:	
Serial No.	:	11/443,101
	:	
Filed	:	May 31, 2006
	:	
Art Unit	:	2473
	:	
Examiner	:	Bokhari, Syed M.
	:	
Att. Docket	:	ALC 3242.01
	:	
Confirmation No.	:	3476

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed April 9, 2012, Applicant respectfully submits the following amendments for form, and requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Office Action rejections for the reasons Applicant respectfully submits in the Remarks section of this paper.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS begin on page 2 of this paper.

REMARKS begin on page 9 of this paper.

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**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

This listing of claims, with an indication of the status of each claim, will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented) A system of redundant pair automatic protection switching at the edge of a Virtual Private LAN System (VPLS) network comprising a redundant pair of provider edge nodes comprising:

a first provider edge node that is a working node of the redundant pair before a switchover and a protection node of the redundant pair after the switchover, and

a second provider edge node that is the protection node of the redundant pair before the switchover and the working node of the redundant pair after the switchover; and

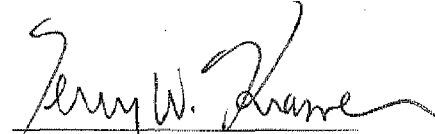
a third provider edge node possessing a media access control (MAC) address entry for the first provider edge node; previously learned by the third provider edge node, wherein the first provider edge node, when functioning as the working node, communicates with the third provider edge node, and, after the switchover in the redundant pair, sends an explicit request to the third provider edge node to flush said MAC address entry for the first provider edge node.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that all pending claims of this application stand in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, though, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues. In the event the fees submitted prove insufficient in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge our Deposit Account Number 50-0578 and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,  
KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.



Terry W. Kramer  
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Date: May 4, 2012

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